

By no stretch of the imagination would I want to suggest that I or any of my colleagues would be seeking an increase, as a matter of fact, especially when we talk about not-for-profits who are hard-pressed and hard hurt, even especially when we are talking about some of our businesses and commercial interests that also must, in fact, thrive as well as survive.

I agree with my colleague that setting the rates is a very complex matter. I would have been pleased to hear the dialogue, the discussion. I would have been pleased to hear from the Board of Governors if they were to make such a decision, or from the Rate Commission, their rationale for even making such a proposal. Knowing full well that it was nothing more than a proposal, I would have appreciated that dialogue and that information.

The power of this House reminds me of a discussion I heard the other day about three umpires who were discussing how they call close balls and strikes. The first umpire said, well, let me tell you, all of the close ones, with me, are balls. The second umpire said, well, let me tell you, with me, all of the close ones are strikes. The third umpire said, well, let me tell you, as far as I am concerned, none of them ain't nothing till I call them.

I think that is the way it is with this House. We can hear proposals, we can hear ideas, we can hear what others would have to say, but the bottom line or the final word is, indeed, ours. So I am not in opposition to the concept to the idea or even the bottom line. We would have just appreciated more opportunity to engage in the dialogue in our subcommittee and to have had an opportunity to more thoroughly explore the concept.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would not disagree with the gentleman, but the fact of the matter is, with the decision being made next Monday, the time sensitive nature of that situation, I am very much appreciative of the fact that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) allowed us to go forward, because I think it is very important in that the people's House express an opinion.

We are representing the people. I think that is the one part of this whole equation that has been left out is what the effects are on the people out there that we represent.

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I apologize that because of the time sensitive nature of this that we had to proceed in this manner. I would hope that he would continue the oversight job that I know he will and to continue his work, but I think this is very important, for us to make a statement here today for the people.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much and

would just suggest that I am sure that we will do that under the very able and capable leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH). We look forward actually to engaging in as much dialogue relative to postal oversight as we possibly can have.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I just wanted to make a couple of observations about the gentleman from Illinois' observations, because he has in the 105th Congress demonstrated himself to be not only a very studious but also a very insightful Member not only of the full committee but also of the Subcommittee on Postal Service and I know that this Member very much appreciates his input and appreciates his getting into the issues that affect all matters that come under the jurisdiction of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, we had an oversight hearing last week in which the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) presided. We had the opportunity, all of us, to interchange with the new Postmaster General, Mr. Henderson. I think we are all impressed with his ability to lead the Postal Service into the next generation. But also testifying at that hearing was the General Accounting Office. I was struck by their remarks relative to this postal rate increase that they were particularly concerned about the quality and the quantity of information that had been supplied by the Postal Service to the PRC before making this recommendation.

I am also struck by the gentleman from Iowa's remark that this decision will be made next Monday and time is of the essence; and, lastly, just to reiterate something I think the gentleman from Iowa said, when the PRC came out with its decision, sadly, and why I think this House needs to become involved, in their May 11 document, they indicated that complicating an already challenging case was the finding by the PRC that the Postal Service's financial projections and underlying cost data from 1996 were outdated and contained what appeared to be serious computational errors. As the gentleman from Iowa stated, the PRC then recommended to the Board of Governors that would it not be better to delay a decision even though they had this 10-month clock ticking, but would it not be better to delay a decision and have it right rather than to conform with the requirement of getting it decided. But, sadly, the Board of Governors rejected that. The head of the PRC said, in a response reflecting a preference for form over substance, "The Governors rejected the proposal and reminded the Commission that it was obligated to complete the case in 10 months."

I think the gentleman from Iowa's resolution, I am sure the gentleman from Illinois and all his colleagues on his side of the aisle would rather that

the Board of Governors get it right than get it done quickly. It is for that reason that I would respectfully request that this House pass H. Res. 452.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 452.

The question was taken.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 452.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MEMORIAL

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 113) approving the location of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 113

Whereas section 508 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note; 110 Stat. 4157) authorized the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas section 6(a) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1006(a)) provides that the location of a commemorative work in the area described as Area I (within the meaning of the Act) shall be deemed not authorized unless approved by law not later than 150 days after notification to Congress that the Secretary of the Interior recommends location of the commemorative work in Area I; and

Whereas the Secretary of the Interior has notified Congress of the recommendation of the Secretary that the memorial be located in Area I: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MEMORIAL.

The location of the commemorative work to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by section 508 of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note; 110 Stat. 4157), within Area I is approved under section 6(a) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1006(a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr.